

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 16, 2005. Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-13 remain in this application. Claims 2 and 10 have been canceled, and their recitations have been incorporated into each of the independent claims (Claims 1, 9 and 13); these actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 3-5, 11 and 12 also have been amended as to their dependency. Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 2 and 10, and their dependent claims, would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Since the recitations of those claims have been incorporated into each of the independent claims, all claims in this application are believed clearly to be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action entered rejections of Claims 1, 3/1, 4/1, 5/1, 6/5/1, 8/6/5/1, 9, 11/9, 12/9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,449,060 (Kawai). As shown above, the scope of those claims has been modified by the addition of the recitations from Claims 2 and 10, and the remaining claims are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance. In particular, Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application, to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

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